

Oct 16 agenda
Oct 21 hearing

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Christopher Nunn
Commissioner



August 30, 2019

Honorable Al Thurman
Mayor, City of Powder Springs
4484 Marietta Street
Powder Springs, Georgia 30127

Dear Mayor Thurman:

Congratulations! I am pleased to announce that the City of Powder Springs has been designated a 2020 PlanFirst Community by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

The PlanFirst designation will last for three (3) years: January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2022. This designation recognizes your hard work and successful comprehensive plan implementation, and acknowledges your community's commitment to identifying opportunities and setting the goals to move your community forward.

Your designation will be announced at the awards dinner at the DCA Conference in LaGrange on Wednesday, October 16. First-time designees will have the opportunity to have a photo taken with the DCA Commissioner, but *your attendance is not required*. There is a cost for the dinner and you can find additional information and the registration link at <https://www.dca.ga.gov/blog-tags/fall-conference>. Please also confirm with Ebony Simpson if you plan to attend.

The official PlanFirst designation ceremony will occur at the State Capitol in February/March 2020. At this Capitol event, we will present you with your PlanFirst award which we hope you will prominently display. You will receive additional information about this event in Atlanta in the coming months.

We would like to schedule a visit to your community in the next few months as part of an upcoming city council meeting to make the public presentation of your designation. At that time, we will also review the *Memorandum of Agreement*, which will specify program benefits and responsibilities that accompany the PlanFirst designation. DCA Planning Outreach Coordinator Ebony Simpson will be contacting you to arrange a date for this meeting and presentation. If you have any additional questions or concerns, you can contact her at at 912-663-9865 or by email at ebony.simpson@dca.ga.gov.

The PlanFirst designation also enables you to take advantage of the various incentives, including:

- Annual CDBG application eligibility for non-entitlement communities meeting certain criteria;
- Bonus points on applications for DCA programs as EIP, DDRLF, and Redevelopment Fund;
- A reduced interest rate on certain Georgia Environmental Financing Authority (GEFA) loans; and
- Complimentary registration for 2 attendees at the DCA Community Planning Institute events

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Once again, congratulations! I commend you on the efforts that have led to this designation. The City of Powder Springs is an example for all Georgia communities in its creation of a robust vision of its future and maintenance of an active strategy for implementing that vision. This is a well-deserved acknowledgement of successful planning and implementation, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Tyler Reinagel, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Planning and Research

cc: Tina Garver, Director of Community Development, City of Powder Springs
John Van Brunt, Region 1 Representative, DCA
Jared Lombard, Principal Planner, Atlanta Regional Commission
Ebony Simpson, Planning Outreach and Training Coordinator, DCA

